

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently amended) A fluid injection nozzle comprising:
  - a valve body providing a valve seat on an inner surface, said inner surface defining a fluid passage whose cross-sectional area decreases toward a downstream side;
  - a valve member for cooperating with said valve seat to open and close said fluid passage; and
  - a plate disposed on a downstream side of said fluid passage, said plate defining a plurality of through holes for injecting fluid, said plate providing a chamber just above said through holes,
    - wherein said chamber is defined by an approximately flat surface of said plate and extends substantially parallel with said plate, and wherein a diameter of said chamber is larger than a downstream end opening of said inner surface of said valve body, and wherein said through holes have inlet openings at an area radially outside a projected area of said downstream end opening in an axial direction,
    - wherein said chamber extends radially outwardly beyond said through holes by more than a diameter of said through holes,
    - wherein an imaginary line along said inner surface of said valve body directly crosses said plate at a crossing point, and
    - wherein said through holes are radially disposed having a displacement with respect to the crossing point.

2. (Currently amended) A fluid injection nozzle comprising:
  - a valve body providing a valve seat on an inner surface, said inner surface defining a fluid passage whose cross-sectional area is decreased toward a downstream side;
  - a valve member for cooperating with said valve seat to open and close said fluid passage; and

a plate disposed on a downstream side of said fluid passage, said plate having a plurality of through holes for injecting fluid,

wherein said plate is located at a far end of a downstream direction of the fluid injection nozzle,

wherein said plate defines a chamber just above said through holes, wherein said chamber is defined by a flat surface of said plate and extends substantially parallel to said plate, and wherein a diameter of said chamber is larger than a downstream end opening of said inner surface of said valve body, and wherein said through hole has an inlet opening at an area outside a projected area of said downstream end opening in an axial direction, and

wherein said valve body defines a depression at its downstream end for defining said chamber, and said inlet of said through hole faces a bottom surface of said depression.

3. (Currently amended) A fluid injection nozzle comprising:

a valve body providing a valve seat on an inner surface, said inner surface defining a fluid passage whose cross-sectional area is decreased in a downstream direction;

a valve member for cooperating with said valve seat to open and close said fluid passage; and

a plate disposed on a downstream side of said fluid passage, said plate defining a plurality of through holes for injecting fluid,

said plate defining a chamber just above said through holes, wherein said chamber is defined by an approximately flat surface of said plate and extends substantially parallel with said plate, and wherein a diameter of said chamber is larger than a downstream end opening of said inner surface of said valve body, and wherein said through hole has an inlet opened at an area outside a projected area of said downstream end opening in an axial direction, and

wherein said valve body has a depression at its downstream end for defining said chamber, and said inlet of said through hole faces a bottom surface of said depression, wherein the bottom surface of said depression extends substantially parallel with said plate.

4. (Original) A fluid injection nozzle according to claim 1, wherein said plate is fixed to the valve body.

5. (Original) A fluid injection nozzle according to claim 2, wherein said plate is fixed to the valve body.

6. (Original) A fluid injection nozzle according to claim 3, wherein said plate is fixed to the valve body.

7. (Original) A fluid injection nozzle according to claim 1, wherein said through hole has a round cross-sectional shape.

8. (Original) A fluid injection nozzle according to claim 2, wherein said through hole has a round cross-sectional shape.

9. (Original) A fluid injection nozzle according to claim 3, wherein said through hole has a round cross-sectional shape.

10. (Previously presented) A fluid injection nozzle according to claim 1, wherein the inlet openings of the through holes are located radially outside of the crossing point.

11. (Previously presented) A fluid injection nozzle according to claim 1, wherein the imaginary line along the inner surface of the valve body crosses an imaginary line

substantially axially aligned with one of the through holes at a point upstream from the downstream end opening.

12. (New) A fluid injection nozzle according to claim 1, wherein said imaginary line along said inner surface of the valve body does not intersect any other imaginary line along said inner surface of the valve body.